



Preparing For Your Pet's Orthopedic Surgery

Preparing your Pet:

- Due to the incision site, you will need to withhold bathing your pet for 21 days after the procedure. If your pet gets regular grooming, we suggest scheduling it a week or two prior to surgery.
- If you prefer to bathe your pet at home prior to surgery, we suggest adding a non-slip bath mat to provide more stability.
- You will be provided with several medications to help keep your pet comfortable and rested-consider stocking up on their favorite soft treats to help make medicating easier. Suggestions include: Pill Pockets, peanut butter, cheese, marshmallows or lunch meat.
- Combat boredom: Keeping your pet's mind busy will help decrease the amount of physical activity they feel they need to do. Kong toys, and puzzle feeders are great ways to provide quiet stimulation.

Preparing your Family:

- If there will be other family members helping in your pet's recovery, it is good to discuss who may be dropping your pet off for surgery and who will be picking your pet up after surgery.
- Your pet will not be allowed to jump into or out of the vehicle, so you may need assistance in lifting them, depending on their size. A seat cover or blanket on your seats will be helpful in case the incision oozes.
- If you have children in the household, take time to explain that their furry friend will need time to heal and rest. It will be several weeks before they can play again.

Preparing Inside your Home:

- After surgery, your pet will need a quiet, low traffic space to relax and rest. A kennel is the safest space for your pet to recover, especially if they are overstimulated or overactive.
- Soft bedding and blankets will help to make them more comfortable. Adding area rugs, or anti-slip mats in areas where your dog will be can help to prevent falling.
- Food and water dishes should be easily accessible to your pet at all times.
- If you have stairs, your pet should avoid using them or consider an area where there are less stairs for them to go down.

Preparing Outside your Home:

- Plan how and where you will take your dog outside. If it is a different location than you normally would take them out, you may need to get them used to going to the area prior to surgery.
- If it is winter, remember to plan for snow removal in the area so your pet can walk more comfortably and safely.